

1975). Twins were produced in 3 of the 5 births in the London Zoo (Asdell, loc. cit.).

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7. OBSERVATIONS ON PARENTAL CARE OF A WOUNDED CHICK OF THE BRONZEWINGED JACANA, *METOPIDIUS INDICUS* (LATHAM)

While collecting waterbirds in a small fish tank at a swamp in Senpukur, Baj Baj, West Bengal (about 16 km SW. of Calcutta), on 3rd October 1977 around midday, a ricocheting shot from my .22 bore rifle accident-

tally hit a leg of one of the four chicks of a brood of the Bronzewinged Jacana. At the time of shooting they were following their parent on the other side of the tank.

Next day when I visited the tank I observed

an extremely irritated and pugnacious Bronz-winged Jacana chasing and driving away almost all the birds which came to visit the tank for foraging, which included Cotton Teal, Lesser Whistling Teal, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, etc. It even chased and drove away a White-breasted Kingfisher and compelled a Little Grebe, an actual resident of the tank, to leave the place. I discovered that the hostile behaviour of the bird was only to protect the wounded chick which was unable to move with the others and was only able to feebly paddle in a small pool of water cleared by a parent bird by pushing or pulling apart the thick floating

aquatic weeds with its bill. This rather cumbersome and laborious process of making clear spaces in the thickly entangled mass of aquatic weeds was observed to be performed repeatedly whenever the chick intended to move about. This behaviour of assistance to the wounded chick lasted till the midday of 5th October when the chick died.

During the period of observation, the three other broodmates of the unfortunate chick were unattended by the parent, but were found to be behaving normally like typical precocial chicks.

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#### 8. BLACKNECKED CRANE IN BHUTAN AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH—A SURVEY REPORT FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1978

For studying the status of the allegedly rare Blacknecked Crane, *Grus nigricollis* Przevalski, in the eastern Himalaya during winter, the Bombay Natural History Society, the Zoological Survey of India and the World Wildlife Fund—India, organised a joint expedition to Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh during January-February 1978. Due to unavoidable reasons Dr. Sálím Ali of the BNHS and Dr. B. Biswas of the ZSI could not join the team. Mr. K. S. Lavkumar of the World Wildlife Fund—India and I from the Zoological Survey of India, therefore, conducted the survey. Earlier under the leadership of Dr. Sálím Ali, an expedition in search of the breeding ground of the crane had been undertaken in Ladakh during June-August of 1976, when the BNHS, the ZSI and the WWF-India, participated.

On the basis of the report by F. N. Betts (1954) from the Apatani Valley, Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh and the report furnished by Dr. B. Biswas, who led a faunistic exploration in central and eastern Bhutan from the Zoological Survey of India and actually found the cranes in the Tashi Yangtshi Valley in eastern Bhutan during 1973, together with the information supplied by the forest department of the Govt. of Bhutan, Central and Eastern Bhutan and Subansiri District (Apatani Valley in particular) in Arunachal Pradesh were chosen for the study.

#### ITINERARY:

In Bhutan: 11 Jan. 1978. Dep. Calcutta  
15 Jan. 1978. Arr. Bumthang (Chamkhar Chu Valley), central Bhutan  
20 Jan. 1978. Dep. Bumthang